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***Carnahan: 'Steps Must Be Taken to Prevent This from Happening Again'***

(WASHINGTON, DC) - After being among the first to call on BP to focus less on PR and their Wall Street shareholders and more on cleaning up their mess, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) is again urging his colleagues to eliminate tax subsidies for Big Oil companies and make sure BP is held accountable for the full costs of cleanup, with no limit on liabilities.

**"BP must focus its attention to ensuring the oil has stopped and cleaning up this mess. And Congress must focus on taking steps to prevent this kind of disaster from ever happening again,"** said Congressman Carnahan. **"Taxpayers must not foot the bill for Big Oil."**

Russ Carnahan has called for an end of taxpayer funded subsidies for oil companies in addition to removing caps on the costs of cleanup following an oil spill. He believes there is no need to protect the largest and most profitable companies in the world from burdens that every other taxpayer faces.

The End Big Oil Tax Subsidies Act of 2010, cosponsored by Carnahan, ends expensive and unnecessary subsidies that the American people provide to the world's largest and most profitable companies.

**"It's mind-boggling that even as everyday American families are struggling to pay their mortgages, their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent to prop up massive oil companies,"** said Russ Carnahan. **"That's absolutely ridiculous."**

Today the U.S. House of Representatives passed two pieces of legislation coming out of the Science and Technology Committee - of which Russ Carnahan is a member - to enhance

preparedness for future oil spills. The first bill provides more oversight and accountability; the second requires oil companies to do more with accident prevention and mitigation.

**"While oil companies have focused on profits they've done little to invest in preventing accidents,"** said Carnahan. **"The drills have gotten bigger and 'better' but the same can't be said for equipment and plans designed to deal with disastrous oil spills they can cause."**

Additional legislation passed out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee this month includes language introduced by Carnahan looking into the use of dispersants used after an oil spill occurs and its possible effects on the environment.

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